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Claims

1. Method of changing the input states of an electronic device, the device comprising input means and being capable of carrying out user operations, the input states comprising a locked state, where the use of the input means is significantly restricted, and an unlocked state, where the use of the input means is not restricted, the locked state being enterable by a locking input, and the unlocked state being enterable by an unlocking input, characterised in that the input states further comprise an intermediate unlocked state; which method comprises:
- entering said intermediate unlocked state based on user input;
 - detecting the termination of a user operation in said intermediate unlocked state, the user operation being other than said locking input; and
 - entering said locked state, in response to said detection.
2. Method according to claim 1, wherein the user operations that can be carried out in the intermediate unlocked state are restricted to a subgroup of the user operations that can be carried out in the unlocked state.
3. Method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the termination of the user operation is one of the group: completing the user operation, cancelling the user operation, detecting the idleness of user input and detecting an unexpected user input.
4. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said detection of termination of the user operation is defined by a predetermined number of input operations.
5. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein said detection of termination of the user operation is time related.
6. Method according to anyone of the preceding claims, wherein the user input required for entering the intermediate unlocked state comprises an intermediate unlocking input which is different from both the unlocking input and the locking input.
7. Software tool for locking of an electronic device from an intermediate unlocked state, comprising program code means for carrying out the steps of anyone of claims 1 to 5 when said software tool is run on an electronic device.

8. Computer program for locking of an electronic device from an intermediate unlocked state, comprising program code means for carrying out the steps of anyone of claims 1 to 5 when said program is run on an electronic device.
- 5 9. Computer program product comprising program code means stored on a computer readable medium for carrying out the method of anyone of claims 1 to 5 when said program product is run on an electronic device.
- 10 10. Input controller for an electronic device having input means and computing means, for changing the input states of said input means on detecting a termination of a user operation, the input states comprising a locked state, where the use of the input means is significantly restricted, and an unlocked state, where the use of the input means is not restricted, said locked state being enterable by a locking input, and said unlocked state being enterable by an unlocking input, characterised in that:
- 15 said input states further comprise an intermediate unlocked state, and the input controller comprises:
- means to operatively connect the input means to said input controller;
 - means to operatively connect the computing means of the electronic device to said input controller;
 - 20 - means to enter the intermediate unlocked state based on user input;
 - means to detect the termination of a user operation in said intermediate unlocked state, the user operation being other than said locking input,
 - means to enter said locked state in response to said detection.
- 25 11. Input controller according to claim 9, further comprising a timer.
12. Keypad comprising an input controller according to claim 9 or 10.
- 30 13. Mobile electronic device, having input means and different user input states, the input states comprising a locked state, where the use of the input means is significantly restricted, and an unlocked state, where the use of the input means is not restricted, said locked state being enterable by a locking input, and said unlocked state being enterable by an unlocking input, characterised in that,
- 35 said input states further comprise an intermediate unlocked state, and in that, the mobile electronic device comprises:
- means to enter the intermediate unlocked state based on user input;
 - means for detecting the termination of a user operation in said intermediate unlocked

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state, the user operation being other than said locking input, and

- means to enter said locked state in response to said detection.

5 14. Mobile electronic device according to claim 12, further comprising a memory to store locking, unlocking and intermediate unlocking inputs.

15. Mobile electronic device according to claim 12 or 13, further comprising a timer.